

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 AF-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 CCO-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /145 W

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P R 132001Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4747

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

EUCOM

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS PARIS 29262

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR/FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS AND MIDDLE EAST CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT

REF.: PARIS 29073

SUMMARY: COMMENT IN FRENCH PRESS, WHICH AT END OF LAST
WEEK MIXED PERSONAL PRAISE FOR SECRETARY'S WORK IN MIDDLE EAST
CEASEFIRE ACCORD WITH WARNINGS AGAINST EXCESSIVE OPTIMISM,
HAS COOLED IN PAST 48 HOURS. WHILE OBSERVERS STILL FIND WHAT
ONE CALLED "REMARKABLE APTITUDE" IN ARRANGING ACCORD, THEY
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ALSO SEE "EQUIVOCATION" IN AGREEMENT THAT MAY HINDER OR OBSTRUCT

ITS APPLICATION, AND FEEL THAT MOSCOW HAS "TRUMPS" STILL TO PLAY.
END SUMMARY.

1. "TO WIN HIS GAMBLE," WRITE FIGARO'S ROGER MASSIP
NOVEMBER 12, MR. KISSINGER HAD TO RESORT DELIBERATELY TO
EQUIVOCATION... SOME OF THE PROBLEMS HE LEFT IN THE SHADOWS ARE
A MORTGAGE ON THE FUTURE. IT REMAINS ALSO THAT SOVIET DIPLOMACY STILL
HAS MANY TRUMPS TO PLAY, ESPECIALLY IN THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.
THIS IS WHY THE AGREEMENT AT KILOMETER 101, WHILE IT DESERVES TO
BE HAILED AS A FORTUNATE EVENT, SHOULD NOT ENCOURAGE TOO MANY
ILLUSIONS ABOUT ITS CONSEQUENCES. THE ROAD TO PEACE IS CERTAINLY
OPEN, BUT IT IS NEITHER A STRAIGHT ROAD NOR AN EASY ONE."

2. IN AN EDITORIAL THE SAME DAY, COMBAT OBSERVED THAT THE
"SEMANTIC FEAT" THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE IN THE ACCORD "ALL
THE RESERVATIONS" OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED IS ALSO LIKELY TO "OPEN
THE WAY VERY SOON FOR DANGEROUS INTERPRETATIONS" THAT COULD "JEO-
PARDIZE THE IMMENSE PROGRESS" ALREADY MADE. AN AGREEMENT OF
THIS KIND, SAID THE PAPER, IS "BOUND TO INCLUDE SERIOUS UNCERTAINTIES
;
IF IT WERE PRECISE, IT WOULD SUIT NOBODY. IN THIS RESPECT, IT BEARS
KISSINGER'S STAMP AND LOOKS VERY MUCH LIKE THE VIETNAM ACCORDS."

3. IN GRENOBLE DAILY DAUPHINE LIBERE, PAUL MOUSSET
SPOKE OF SECRETARY'S "PATENT LACK OF PSYCHOLOGY, UNQUESTIONABLE
CHARM, DIRECT APPROACH TO MEN AND EVENTS", AND SAID: "PRESSING
FORWARD, BETRAYING HIS FRIENDS, CAJOLING HIS ENEMIES, THIS TRAVELING
SALESMAN IN QUICK SOLUTIONS HAS JUST ACHIEVED A MIDDLE EAST PEACE
OUTLINE. WE CAN ONLY CONGRATULATE HIM FOR THAT, WHILE WONDERING --
THOUGH NOT WISHING IT -- WHETHER HE IS RIDING FOR A FALL... " IN
AURORE, ROLAND FAURE SAID SECSTATE'S "REMARKABLE APTITUDE IN
THE ART OF DIPLOMACY" MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED. BUT "AS FOR HIS
GENIUS IN RESTORING WORLD PEACE, WE CAN'T GO ALONG WITH THIS AS
QUICKLY AS THE NOBEL JURY".

4. ALSO WORTH NOTING IS COMMENT PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 7,
PRIOR TO CEASEFIRE ACCORD, BY WELL-RESPECTED RAYMOND ARON IN
FIGARO: "BEFORE JUDGING AND CONDEMNING KISSINGER, AS EUROPEAN
GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR SPOKESMEN DID," HE WROTE, "A DISTINCTION
MUST BE MADE BETWEEN FORM AND SUBSTANCE. THE NIXON CREW, AS IS ONLY
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TOO WELL KNOWN, LACKS GOOD MANNERS AND OFTEN ACTS BRUTALLY TOWARD
U.S. ALLIES. MR. KISSINGER DOES NOT HIDE HIS INNATE ARROGANCE UNDER
THE HYPOCRISY WHICH CENTURIES OF CIVILIZATION HAVE TAUGHT
EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS". ARON NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT WASHINGTON DID
NOT HAVE TIME TO CONSULT "ANYONE" ON NIGHT OF MILITARY ALERT, AND
THAT IN ANY CASE EUROPEANS HAD "EXCLUDED THEMSELVES FROM THE GAME"
BY "DECLARING THEMSELVES NEUTRALISM SECSTATE, HE SAID, MAY HAVE
ERRED IN CRITICIZING EUROPEANS FOR THIS, "BUT AT LEAST EUROPE SHOULD

ACCEPT CONSEQUENCES OF ITS NEUTRALITY". ARON OBSERVED THAT "NIXON AND KISSINGER PRACTICE -- OFTEN WITH SUCCESS -- A POWER POLICY THAT DIFFERS FROM THAT OF THEIR PREDECESSORS ONLY BY THE ABSENCE OF CAMOUFLAGE." HE SAW ADVANTAGES IN THIS IN "DISPELLING EUROPEAN ILLUSIONS." SECSTATE, HE SAID, WORKED DAY AND NIGHT TO GET CEASEFIRE FAVORING NEGOTIATIONS AND TO KEEP RUSSIAN TROOPS FROM MIDDLE EAST. EUROPEANS, MEANWHILE, "WERE WONDERING HOW TO SAFEGUARD THEIR NEUTRALITY, DESPITE THEIR ALLIANCE WITH WASHINGTON... LET THEM ALSO WONDER WHO HAS MORE TO FEAR FROM SOVIET ACTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST -- EUROPEANS OR AMERICANS".IRWIN

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